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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1937

R. PLATT LTD., PRINTERS, WIGAN

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Ashfield House,

Aspull, Wigan,

June, 1938.

The Chairman and Members

of the ASPULL Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

As you will see from the appended statistics the health of the district continues to be satisfactory.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. A. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates, and **Case Rates** for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937. England and Wales—London, 125 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

—	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population.									Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births	Still-births	All Causes	Typhoid and Para-typhoid fever	Small pox	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza	Violence	Total Deaths under One year.	Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under Two years).
England and Wales	14·9	0·6[illegible]	12·4	0·[illegible]	0·00	0·[illegible]2	0·01	0·04	0·07	0·45	0·51	58	5·8
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	14·9	0·67	1[illegible]·5	0·01	0·00	0·03	0·01	0·04	0·08	0·39	0·15	62	7·9
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	15·3	0·64	11·9	0·00	0·00	0·02	0·01	0·0[illegible]	0·05	0·42	0·42	55	3·2
London Administrative County	13·3	0·54	12·3	0·00	0·00	0·01	0·01	0·06	0·05	0·38	0·51	60	12·0

NOTIFICATIONS.

	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia
England and Wales	0·00	2·33	1·49	0·05	0·37	1·36
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	0·00	2·56	1·81	0·06	0·43	1·58
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	0·00	2·42	1·38	0·04	0·34	1·20
London Administrative County	0·00	2·09	1·93	0·05	0·44	1·18

	Puerperal Sepsis	Others.	Total
The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows.— per 1,000 Live Births ...	0·97	2·26	3·23
Do. do. do do. do. Live and Still ...	0·94	2·17	3.11

NOTIFICATIONS	England & Wales.	125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	148 Smaller Towns	London County.
Puerperal Fever ...	13·93	17·59	11·52	4·15
Puerperal Pyrexia				14·34

TOTAL DEATHS, 1937. S.D. 30.

Causes of Death in Aspull U.D., 1937 :—

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	53	37
Measles	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0
Diphtheria	2	0
Influenza	2	1
Ac: and Chronic Nephritis	2	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	1
Cancer	4	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	4	4
Heart Disease	15	8
Other Circulatory Diseases	0	1
Bronchitis	3	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	0
Congenital causes, etc.	4	2
Senility	2	3
Other Violence	2	1
Other Defined Causes	1	6
Ill defined or N.K.	1	0
Other Digestive Diseases	0	1
Diabetes	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	0
Appendicitis	1	0
Other Tuberculosis	1	1
Live Births:		
Total	52	58
Legitimate	52	56
Illegitimate	—	2
Stillbirths:		
Total	2	6
Legitimate	2	6
Illegitimate	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 year.		
Total	7	2
Legitimate	7	2
Illegitimate	—	—

Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified :

Scarlet Fever	4	Diphtheria	7
Pneumonia	49	Erysipelas	10

Resident Population : 6,628.

Comparability factor : 1.21.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1937.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.—

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	108	52	56
Illegitimate	2	0	2
Total	110	52	58

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16·5.

Still Births	8	2	6

Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births 67.

Deaths	90	53	37

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population *13·5

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

Puerperal sepsis	0
Other Puerperal causes	0
Total	0

Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) births Nil.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	81
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	83
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0

* 1937 adjusted death rate (comparability factor, 1·21) = 16·3 per 1000.

Population, 6,628.	Per 1000 of Estimated Population.				Maternal Mortality Rate		
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1000 *Live* Births	Per 1000 *Total* (Live and Still) Births	Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births
Mean of 5 Years 193 —1936 ...	17.1	12.9	0.63	1.16	3 31	3.17	91
Year—							
1936...	16 5	12.4	0.44	0 59	Nil	Nil	53
1937...	16.5	*13.5	0.15	1.20	Nil	Nil	81
Increase or decrease in 1937 on—							
5 years' average, 1932-1936 ...	—0.6	+0.6	—0.48	+0.04	—3.31	—3.17	—10
Previous Year	Nil	+1.1	—0.29	+0.61	Nil	Nil	+28

* 1937 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1.21) = 16.3 per 1,000.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

SUMMARY of the particulars required by the Ministry of Health Circular 1650, dated the 4th October, 1937, to be included in the

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1937.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres 1,906

Population—Census, 1931, 7,193.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1937—6,628

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931), 1,636.

End of 1937 according to Rate Books, 1,741.

Rateable value, £16,135.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £60.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area:—

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class. There is now only one small cotton mill working in the district.

Extent of unemployment:—

Wholly unemployed 693. Temporarily unemployed 87.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health—None.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment—None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year—None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health—None.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise. that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults—None.

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health: R. A. Cooke.

Remuneration (including bonus, if any) as M.O.H. at 31/12/1937, £110

Is he a whole or part-time official of the local authority. Part.

Any other public appointments held by him: Public Vaccinator.

Is he in private practice: Yes.

Sanitary Inspector: Randolph Fairclough.

Remuneration (including bonus, if any) as Sanitary Inspector at 31/12/37: £170.

Whole or Part Time: Part.

Other appointments held (if any): Highway Surveyor.

Veterinary Inspector (any appointment or arrangement by the Local Authority): No.

If occasional inspection only is carried out, under what circumstances do these inspections take place (e.g., at the request M.O.H., etc.): At request of Medical Officer of Health.

Any other Specialised Inspectors(s) (e.g., Food Inspector)? None.

Other Public Health Officers, such as Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Health Visitors, Special Nurses, Dental Surgeon, etc.: None.

Ambulance facilities for:—

(a) Infections cases: Provided by respective hospitals: Motor.

(b) Non-infections and accident cases: Wigan Corporation; Motor.

(c) Maternity patients: Wigan Corporation; Motor. Chorley Hospital Motor.

Professional Nursing in the Home:—

Nature of arrangements made by the local authority in the district for—

(a) General nursing: None.

(b) For infections diseases, e.g., Measles, etc.: None.

Total amount of financial assistance given by local authority to volutary associations: Haigh and Aspull Nursing Association £25.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:—

Is there in your district:—

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (Consultation and treatment): Yes.

Provided by Lancashire County Council.

Address of centre: Independent Methodist Chapel, Wigan Road, New Springs.

Give day and time open: Wednesday 1-30 to 4 p.m

Ante natal Clinic: No.

Day Nursery: No.

School Clinic: Under Lancashire County Council.

Orthopædic Clinic: No.

Artificial Light Clinic: No.

Hospitals in the district:—

Public: None.

Voluntary: None.

Is there any institutional provision in your area for

Unmarried mothers? No.

Illegitimate infants? No.

Homeless children? No.

Health Education:—

Any action taken by the local authority during the year in regard to the publication of information or dissemination of knowledge relating to health or disease. (e.g.. Health Week, Special Lectures, etc.) None.

New legislation (if any) and date of operation:—

Local Acts: None.

Special Local Orders: None.

General Adoptive Acts: None.

Bye-laws relating to public health: None.

Observations as to their administration: None.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Source: Bolton Corporation, Blackrod U.D.C., and Liverpool Corporation.

Particulars of any new sources of public supply: None.

Is supply satisfactory? (a) in quality: Yes. (b) In quantity: Yes.

Constant or intermittent: Constant

Approximate number of dwelling-houses with piped supplies (public and private)? (a) Direct from mains, 1,740. (b) By stand pipe): None.

Possibilities of contamination: None.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination: None.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action? None. Pipes lined with tin.

If piped supply, state if water has been controlled by bacteriological examination. If so, number of examinations: None.

Chemical analyses—Results: None.

Approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, etc.: One.

Have these waters been analysed during the year? If so, state result: No.

Any insufficiency, and where: One isolated cottage cannot be supplied from mains.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year: None.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Sewage disposal works, method of treatment: Taken by Wigan and treated.

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system: None.

Any progress made in improving character and sufficiency of arrangements for drainage: No.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system, and reason therefor: Isolated farms and cottages.

Action taken—Drain testing, flushing, etc.: Carried out periodically.

Rivers and Streams—

Action taken to check the pollution of streams: None.

Sources and nature of pollution: None.

Have any new works been established (such as artificial silk works, cheese manufactories, etc.), and is there any resultant river pollution? No.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1937:—

(In this connection note last year's figures). Last year's figures in parenthesis.

Privy middens:—Number of middens 30 (31).

Number of closets attached to these middens 69 (86).

Does this system still exist in populous and closely built centres: No.

Number of pail closets 28 (28).

Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) 2 (2).

Number of movable ashbins 1,669.

Number of houses on water carriage system 1,627 (1,599).

Number of fresh water closets 1,562 (1,534)

Number of waste water closets 1 (1).

Conversions—

	1937.	5 years, 1932-36
Number of privy closets		
To fresh w.c.'s	1	213
To waste w.c.'s	—	—
To pails, etc.	—	4
Number of pail closets		
To fresh w.c.'s	—	2
To waste w.c.'s	—	—
No. of waste w.c.'s to fresh w.c.'s		—
Number of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	1	—

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets: Yes.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion: Yes.

If so, how much: Lays drains to w.c. basin.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property: W.C.

Public Cleansing—

(a) The method of collecting dry house refuse: Collected weekly by motor, with special refuse van type of body.

(b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies: Collected by motor vehicle.

(c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse: Buried.

(d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies: Buried.

(e) The methods of cleansing cesspools: Contents taken by cart and buried.

(f) Arrangements for the disposal of cesspool contents: Buried.

If a destructor provided, state situation: None.

State whether public cleansing is carried out by sanitary authority, contract, or occupiers of houses: Sanitary Authority

Any extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements: None.

Are motor vehicles used? Yes.

If privy middens exist, are they emptied by day or night: Day.

Does the Sanitary Inspector supervise the scavenging: Yes.

Sanitary Inspections during 1937—

Number of premises visited: 182.

Defects or nuisances. Number discovered 637. Number abated 411.

Number of notices served. Informal 149. Statutory 4.

Legal proceedings. Number: 1. Result. Orders for abatement with costs.

Shops—

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of Shops Act, 1934, relating to:

(a) Ventilation of Shops. None.

(b) Temperature of Shops: None.

(c) Sanitary Conveniences: None.

Smoke Abatement—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement. None.

Number of factory and works chimneys in the district: 1,

Number of observations: None.

Number of legal proceedings taken and result: None.

Particulars of any co-operative action with industry: None

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour: 5 minutes per hour.

Swimming Baths and Pools—Brief particulars of any.

(a) Public Swimming Baths or Pools. None.

(b) Privately-owned Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public: None.

Any action taken to ensure the satsfactory condition of the water? None.

Schools—

(a) Sanitary condition: Satisfactory.

(b) Water supply: Taken from Council's mains.

Satisfactory: Yes.

Offensive Trades—

Number: None.

Action taken or needed: None.

Workshops and Workplaces—

Number on register: 17.

What is their condition: Good.

Common Lodging-houses—

Number on register: None.

Houses let in Lodgings—

Number on register: None.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.: Action taken: None.

Underground Sleeping Rooms: Any need for regulations? No.

Canal Boats—

Number inspected: None.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928—

State whether there are in the district any premises on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold: None.

Number of inspections: None.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1937—Clearance areas prepared consisting of 35 houses, and the bringing up to a higher standard of existing property.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of district—Provision of additional houses to those at present in building to replace the existing unfit property.

4.—HOUSING.

(a) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the Year:-

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) 27.

(i) By the Local Authority .....None
(ii) By other Local Authorities .....None
(iii) By other bodies or persons 27

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts-

(i) By the Local Authority .....None
(ii) By other bodies or persons .....None

i. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 182

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 301

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 18

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 30

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 35

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 147

2 Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 89

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners .....Repairs in hand

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...None

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners 4

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...None

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....None

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....None

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....None

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....None

4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part 4.)—Overcrowding:

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year—85.

Number of families dwelling therein—85.

Number of persons dwelling therein—590.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year—None.

(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year—None.

Number of persons concerned in such cases—None.

(b) HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. General Observations as to housing conditions, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding:—

The majority of the dwellings are cottages. The average age is about 50 years. The prevailing forms of defects are dampness, effects of wear and tear.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district: 22.

2. Sufficiency of supply of houses.

(a) Extent of shortage (if any): None.

(b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated: 50 new houses in course of erection.

(c) Information as to any important change in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future:—

We anticipate migration.

(d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses: No.

3. Overcrowding.

(a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1937.—None.

(b) Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved during the course of slum clearance operations.—None.

(c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.—None.

(d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, *e.g.*, causes—how far it is due to inability to pay the rents of available houses, etc.—Majority of cases are due to inability to pay rents.

4. Fitness of houses.

(a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts.—None.

(b) Number of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply: One.

(c) Number of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation: 42.

5. Action taken during the year regarding: Clearance Areas—

No. of areas represented: 5; comprising 35 houses.

No. of areas cleared: None.

No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants: 50 in course of erection.

Improvement Areas—

No. of areas represented: None.

No. of houses demolished: None.

No. of tenants displaced: None.

No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants: None.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Milk Supply.—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. —Periodical inspection of cowsheds and dairies.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936—

Number of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1937 in respect of—

"Tuberculin Tested" milk—

(i) Bottling: None. (ii) Distribution: None.

"Accredited" milk—

(i) Bottling: None. (ii) Distribution: None.

Number of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" milk—

Pasteurising plants: None.

Retail distributors: 3.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation: None.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected?—Yes.

How often?—3 or 4 times a year.

What is their condition?—Good.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings, e.g., re-modelling of cowsheds?—Yes. (Give brief particulars).—Bank Hill Farm, extension to existing cow shed. Walker's Lower Farm, new dairy.

Any information as to the cost of the work, actual or estimated: £200.

Farms.—

Number of dairy farms: 17.

Approximate number of cows in the district: 180.

Cowkeepers—

Number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms): 14

Number of inspections during the year: 38.

Dairymen or purveyors of milk (other than cowkeepers).—

Number of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers): 22.

If a Veterinary Inspector has been appointed give (a) the approximate number of cows inspected and (b) the number found to be suffering from tuberculosis:

(a) None. (b) None.

Action taken by local authority as to—
Tuberculous Milk.

Number of samples submitted for biological test:

15 samples of milk supplied to schools.

Result.—Positive None. Negative All.

2. Meat and other Foods.—Observations on—

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared: All premises and vehicles inspected regularly.

Number of legal proceedings and result: None.

(b) Inspection of meat—

Animal	Total number of killings	Number of carcases inspected	Number of Condemnations. Parts of carcases or organs. For tuberculosis	For diseases other than tuberculosis
Cattle (other than cows)	3	3	1	—
Cows	47	47	36	5
Calves...	3	3	—	—
Sheep	13	13	—	—
Lambs...	—	—	—	—
Pigs	51	51	5	2

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis: Cows 10.64; Pigs 3.92.

Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis: Cattle (excluding Cows) 33.33; Cows 76.59; Pigs 9.80.

(c) Has a public slaughter-house been provided?—No.

Private slaughter-houses—

Number registered: None.

Number licensed: 2.

Are they conducted satisfactorily? Yes.

(d) If a meat marketing scheme under Part 3 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force, give particulars with regard to action taken thereunder: None.

(e) Food poisoning (including suspected cases):—Action taken (if any): None.

(f) Bakehouses—

Number: 5. Condition: Good.

3. Adulteration, etc.—

Action taken by local authority (if there are a Food and Drugs Authority) in respect of—

(i) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.:—
Samples taken by Lancashire Constabulary.

(ii) Other Food Acts or Regulations.— None.

4. Chemical and bacteriological examination of food (excluding milk): None.

No. and nature of analyses during the year, and the laboratories to which specimens were sent: None.

5 Nutrition—

Dissemination of knowledge—Any action? None.

6. Shell-fish (Molluscan): None.

6.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation provided or available:—

For smallpox: Bury and District Joint Hospital Board.

Where situate: Bury.

No. of Beds: No definite number.

Is the hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement"? Agreement.

Are any retaining fees paid? Yes.

If so what sum or sums? £35 per annum.

For other infectious diseases: Horwich, Blackrod and Westhoughton Hospital Committee. No. of beds: 5 guaranteed.

Where situate: Horwich.

Is the hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement"? Agreement.

Are any retaining fees paid? Yes.

If so, what sum or sums? £25 per annum.

Are patients required to contribute towards cost of treatment? No.

Cost of hospital treatment for infectious disease. The total cost to the local authority for two recent years:

Year ended 31st December, 1937, £125.

Year ended 31st December, 1936, £69.

Observations as to sufficiency or otherwise of the available accommodation: Always sufficient.

Has any action been taken or advised with the object of securing that the hospital accommodation available is utilised to the best advantage?—No.

Has action been taken to shorten the period of stay of uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever?—No.

Or to replace hospital treatment in suitable instances by nursing and supervision at home?—No.

Have any new methods been adopted for the selection of individual cases for which admission to hospital is most imperative?—No.

Or any new decision as to the admission of cases of diseases such as measles or whooping cough?—No.

Infectious diseases generally:—

Review briefly the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year 1937, and give any noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection: The number of cases of infectious disease notified was small.

Give the clinical type and diffusion of:—

(a) Diphtheria: In all cases the infection was in the fauces.

(b) Cerebro-spinal fever: Nil.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of:—

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin: Supply is adequate, it is promptly used.

Are supplies readily available? Yes.

If so, where kept? Council Offices.

Are any other Vaccines or Sera supplied free to Medical Practitioners?—No.

Influenza.—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics: None.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations.--At which laboratory are specimens examined?—Wigan Infirmary.

Number and nature of specimens examined in 1937 —

1 Sputum. 35 Throat Swabs.

Number of times School Closure adopted during 1937 for—

Scarlet Fever: None. Whooping Cough: None. Diphtheria: None. Chicken-pox: None. Measles: None. Influenza: 1 (for 10 days).

Any other diseases (specify same): None.

Number of reports made during 1937 under Article 17 (7) of Sanitary Officers' (outside London) Regulations, 1935: None.

Subjects of reports: None.

Immunisation.—Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation against diphtheria and/or scarlet fever:

(a) In hospitals, residential institutions or schools. Nil.

(b) At special clinics or day schools: All children of school age have been offered the facilities for immunisation against diphtheria. Most of the children have been immunised.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners? Yes.

No. of children inoculated—Against (a) Scarlet fever: Nil.

(b) Diphtheria 70.

Have any post-Schick tests been undertaken? No.

If so, number: Nil.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases at all Ages	Total Cases Notified — Years: Under 1	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–10	10–15	15–20	20–35	35–45	45–65	65 and over	Total Deaths	Hospital: Total Cases removed to Hospital from the district.	Hospital: Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup ...	7	—	—	—	2	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	7	1
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	49	5	5	1	3	3	4	4	2	6	3	8	5	—	—	—
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	10	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	5	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	70	5	5	1	6	5	6	7	4	7	5	13	6	—	8	1

Disinfection after infectious disease—

Number of houses disinfected during 1937 : 9.

Method (state disinfectant used): Formalin.

Are Houses disinfected after (a) Pulmonary Tuberculosis : Yes. (b) Measles?—No.

† Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise)—Steam.

Number of articles disinfected : 91.

Where is apparatus situated : Wigan.

† If apparatus at hospital is available, is it used for disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc., of patients *not* removed to the hospital? – Yes.

Disinfestation.—

What arrangements exist for the disinfestation of verminous, etc., persons? None.

In how many instances has this been undertaken? None.

The prevalence of any animal or insect pests such as rats, bugs, fleas, mosquitoes, etc., should be referred to and particulars given of the measures taken for their suppresion : None.

Cancer. Any observations as to the prevalence of Cancer? No.

Particulars of any action taken to impart to the public information regarding cancer (i.e. facilities available, etc.) : None.

Particulars of any alteration, improvements or developments in the availability of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in the area which have been effected during the year (whether by local authority or voluntary hospitals): None.

Are the present facilities adequate? Yes.

Is any use made of facilities provided by National Radium Centres? Yes.

Any local investigation or action undertaken on the lines suggested in the series of Ministry's circulars on cancer No.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Action taken (if any) under section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes: None

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				DEATHS ‡ (The number of deaths classified should agree with the total supplied by the Registrar General.)			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F	M.	F.
Years								
0—1								
1—5	...	...	1	...				
5—10	...	...	3	2				
10—15								
15—20	...	2	...	2				
20—25	...	1	1	...				
25—35	...	1	...	2				
35—45	...	...	...	1				
45—55								
55—65								
65 and upwards								
	...	4	5	7				
Totals	4		12		‡		‡	

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths?

All the deaths had been previously notified.

In your opinion, is the notification of Tuberculosis in your district efficient?—Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify?—No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district? —No.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to Tuberculous employees in the milk trade—None.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1925 and 1936.

Any action taken under section 62, Public Health Act, 1925 or section 172, Public Health Act, 1936: No.

Signed.

R. A. COOKE.

4th April, 1938. Medical Officer of Health.

Council Office, Aspull,

June, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban Sanitary Authority of Aspull.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report in connection with my duties as Sanitary Inspector for the year ending the 31st December, 1937.

Good progress has been made in connection with the Slum Clearance Programme, 5 Clearance Areas comprising 35 houses were dealt with during the year, and preparations made for dealing with further Areas during 1938.

A suitable site for the building of houses to re-house the tenants displaced from the Clearance Areas now having been acquired has speeded up the work, and providing the programme is steadily carried on, the standard of housing accommodation in this district should be equal to that of many surrounding districts.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I beg to tender my sincere thanks to you, also the Medical Officer of Health and other Officials of the Council, for the courteous help and consideration extended to me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. FAIRCLOUGH,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING YEAR 1937.

Number of premises visited (dwelling-houses)	182
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	637
Number of defects abated	411
Number of notices served (Informal)	149
Number of notices served (Formal)	4

DEFECTS DEALT WITH.

Houses with defective roofs	54
Houses with dampness in walls	32
Houses with defective brickwork	22
Houses with damp and defective floors	23
Houses with defective eave or down spouting	18
Houses with defective windows	32
Houses with defective doors or door frames	16
Houses with defective ceilings	9
Houses with damp or decayed plaster on walls	39
Houses with defective or smoky chimney stacks	14
Houses with defective or dangerous fireplaces	10
Houses with defective staircases	10
Houses with defective sink waste pipes	6
Houses with defective and foul slopstones	10
Defective drains	17
Defective areas around sink waste gullies	6
Choked drains	14
Insufficiency of closet accommodation	1
Defective closets, ashpits or ashplaces	5
Defective water closet flushing cisterns	36
Insufficiency of ashbins	6
Absence of water supply to water closets	0
Defective water closet basins	2
Defective yard surfaces	2
Houses with defective washboilers	11
Miscellaneous	16

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The usual routine inspection of the cowsheds and dairies in the district has been carried out.

FARMS.

Number of dairy farms	17
Approximate number of cows in district	180

COWKEEPERS.

Number of cowkeepers (including dairy farms)	14
Number on register	14
Number of inspections during the year	38

DAIRYMEN OR PURVEYORS OF MILK.

Number of dairymen or purveyors of milk	22
Number on register	22

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Cases of infectious disease are visited and in every instance the premises sprayed with Formalin at the termination of the case. Re-decoration of the rooms was carried out where it was considered necessary. In cases of tuberculosis a similar procedure is carried out.

Number of houses disinfected	9
Number of rooms	23
Number of articles	94

Number of Notices (Informal) served with respect to cleansing 1

Number of Notices (Formal) served with respect to cleansing 0

Number of premises cleansed 1

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

These premises are inspected periodically, and the general condition is fairly satisfactory. No complaints have been received from His Majesty's Inspector of Factories who visits the factories.

Number of workshops on register (domestic included) 12
Number of bakehouses on register 5
Visits to workshops and bakehouses 17
Visits to factories 0

The following defects were dealt with :- -

Requiring limewashing and cleansing 1
Defective sanitary accommodation 0
Number of defects remedied 1
Written Notices 0

Trades for which Registered Workshops (domestic included) are used for :—

Boot Repairing	Plumbing	Horse Shoeing and
Wheelwright	Joinery	General Smiths

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, MEAT SHOPS, ETC.

There are two licensed slaughter-houses in the district. All animals slaughtered are examined at the time of slaughter, and shops, vans and other premises are inspected frequently.

Number of slaughter-houses on register 2
Number of visits to slaughter-houses 82

The following animals were inspected as to their fitness for sale at the time of slaughter:—

	Total Number of Killings	No. of Carcases Inspected	No. of Carcases free from Disease	Weight of Tuberculosis Parts and Offal Condemmed	Weight of Parts and Offal other than Tuberculosis Condemmed
Beasts	50	50	12	543 lbs.	37 lbs.
Calves	3	3	3	—	—
Sheep	13	13	13	—	—
Pigs	51	51	46	47 lbs.	16 lbs.

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED.

Tuberculous carcases and parts ..... 590 lbs.

Diseased, unsound and unwholesome meat other than above ..... 53 lbs.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table shews the closet accommodation in the district in December, 1937:—

Privy middens 30

Privy closets attached 69

Dry Ashpits 2

Ashbins 1669

Fresh water closets 1562

Waste water closets 1

Pail closets 28

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The work under these Acts is carried out by the County Constabulary, and the Superintendent for the Division has kindly supplied the necessary information as regards the number of samples taken in this area.

Milk	20
Barley	1
Borax	1
Butter	2
Lard	2
Cinnamon	1
Egg Powder	1
Jam	2
Tinned Fruit	1
Tea	1
Epsom Salts	1
Coffee	1
Sausages	1
Beef Dripping	1
Total	36

All the above samples, on analysis, were found to be genuine.